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T H E

# Arguments of the Enquirer

DETECTED and CONFUTED

B Y T H E

EVIDENCE of FACTS:

H I S

Wilful MISTAKES and OMISSIONS,  
in Regard to the Evidence, Exposed;

A N D

The CONDUCT of Captain M——n im-  
partially Considered by the Minutes and  
Depositions taken at the *Court Martial*.

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*Beasts taught by us, their Fellow-Beasts pursue,  
And learn of Men, each other to undo.*

POPE on *Windsor-Forrest*.

---

By an *ENE MY* to *Party-Prejudice*.

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L O N D O N :

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THE  
ARGUMENTS  
OF THE  
ENQUIRER  
Detected and Confuted  
BY THE  
EVIDENCE of FACTS.



IN a Time of War when the Debts of the Nation increase, Taxes grow heavy and burthensome, Trade in general declines, and the common Losses by Captures grow intolerable: It is then the Success of our Arms only, can raise our Spirits to keep us within the Bounds of a general Discontent. Our Attention therefore is naturally turned to the Actions of our Fleets and Armies, as from them must arise the Motives of a good and lasting Peace.—These Inducements lead every Man to consider in his own private Capacity, whether they are conducted in a proper Manner, to the proper Ends, and whether proper Persons are chose to execute the Designs thereof? In this Nation our Strength and Expectations arise from our naval Force, and as we look upon the Employments of our Armies not so much interested in our own  
B Cause

Cause as in that of our Allies, we are not altogether so very Anxious about their Success.

The Attacks of *Porto Bello* and *Caribagena*, were the chief Actions of the *Spanish* War ; the former attended with Success, the latter (tho' as formidable and expensive an Armament as this, or any Nation ever sent out) miscarried, from what Cause the Publick has never been acquainted, only from the hints of some detracting Libels between the jarring Chiefs. I think it must be held reasonable, that an Affair of such Importance to this Nation as that Expedition was, ought to have had a parliamentary Enquiry ; where 'tis very questionable, whether the Causes of that Miscarriage might not have been expos'd, and the deserving censured, as becoming the solemn Enquiry of that Honourable House.

The next most unfortunate irreparable Loss this Country ever felt ; was the Proceedings of our Fleet in the Mediterranean against the combined Fleets of *France*, and *Spain* : an Advantage over our Enemies we can never expect to see again, a Misfortune this Country will long feel the Effects of, by the present War with *France* ; which depended only upon the Fleets doing their Duty and using their Endeavours to destroy the Enemy.

I am led from these Reflections, to consider what *Don Quixotism* in fighting is argued by many of our modern Coffee-House Patriots and Politicians. I will not pretend to say what they themselves would do, but daily Experience teaches us, 'tis much easier to talk of fighting than to fight. The common prevailing Notion amongst some Men, that *British* Ships of War, should refuse no Odds, leads us into an Error of censuring their Commanders, when their Conduct  
should

should rather be applauded ; upon this footing a Ship of War is to engage against every apparent Advantage of the Enemy, in regard to Numbers and Strength, and against the Opinion of the Commanders and their Officers. I have always thought Conduct a very essential Qualification towards the finishing a good Officer, but the Sentiments of a late Writer seem to esteem the Spirit of a Drawcansir above any Thing that's rational and prudent. I will not pretend to say the Consequence, that such Principles might have, in taking off the Expences of the Nation by diminishing our Fleets ; but it seems highly probable such a System, is rather calculated for our Enemies Advantage than our Own ; and even from them we may gain Experience in War, for we have found the *French* often decline fighting, when the Advantages did not seem on their Side, some Instances of which there will be Occasion to speak of hereafter.

There has not been any Event happen'd at Sea since the Commencement of this War, whereby the Commander has been so clamorously vilified as Captain *M——n* of the *Hampton Court* in a late *Cruise* ; I had taken some Pains to enquire into the Cause, why the *French* Ships were suffer'd to pass without being attack'd ? And indeed could not say I was clear in my Opinion, 'till the Minutes, &c. of the Court Marshal were published, which as I look'd upon as Authentick was readily induc'd to believe the concurring Depositions of so many Officers, and that the Interrogatories proposed by the Gentlemen who compos'd the Court were proper, satisfactory and intelligible. From hence I imagin'd, that Mr. *M——n* had satisfied the World on his Part, and that in common Justice to the Laws,

to the Oaths and Honours of so many Gentlemen who compos'd the Court, the Nation had no further Enquiry on Hers.—The publishing of a late Pamphlet intended as Remarks upon the Court Martial, indeed, as well surprized me, as excited my Curiosity, and upon Consideration thereof can't help saying the Author shews too great a Malignity in his Writing, too much of Party-Spirit, which has wrought him up even to assert false Facts, the Discovery of which (to prevent the gross Impositions intended thereby) is the Intention of these Sheets; not to enter in a Paper War, and thereby urge the Author in his next to treat his own ludicrous Inventions as tho' they were absolutely asserted or proved at the Court Martial. 'Tis first necessary to premise the great Appearance of Reason Captain M— had for desiring a Court Martial to enquire into his Conduct. It occurs to every bodies Knowledge, what a Spirit of railing prevail'd upon the *Hampton Court* and *Dreadnought's* Return from that Cruize; what other Method can an Officer take but by submitting his Behaviour to a publick Test, both to acquit himself to the Officers of his own Corps and to prove to the World the Clearness of his Conduct.

When publick Clamour runs high 'tis difficult to get so far in between it and Justice, as to be able to urge the least Reason in defence; but it must be allowed Innocence will find out all the Avenues and Resources of such a Calamity, and endeavour at every honourable Means of vindicating itself.

Courts-Martial have lately been treated both in publick Assemblies and in private Conversation as a very contemptuous and despicable Form of Justice: The Justice of the Court  
says

lays in its Representatives, and 'tis hard to say our Admirals and Captains are not to be trusted with the Sea Laws, when a common Jury of the meanest Mechanicks are esteemed worthy to be Judges of our Lives and Properties almost every Day. Sure the attainting and blasting the Reputations of so many Officers, Men thought worthy to be intrusted with the Defence of their Country, is an Indignity no one in their Stations before ever suffer'd ; *or from the wanton Liberties of a free People were ever imposed upon them.* The Guilty and the Innocent may alike be tried, but not meet the same Fate, nay oftentimes the Former are most anxious for such an Enquiry ; but it does not follow that they will be screened from Justice on that Account.

It is time to cry out for new Measures and new Men, when the Honour, Abilities, and Courage of the Sea Officers, are question'd, and when there need exemplary Punishments to fright them into a Sense of their Duty, and force them to be brave.

Courage, Reason, and Prudence ought to be the Rules of governing in Sea Affairs, as well as in other Matters ; and 'twould be esteem'd a Tincture of Madness in any Commander to lay it down as a Rule, to engage two Ships of War of the Enemy's, of equal Force, or even One under all Disadvantages. I believe 'twould have been thought more Praise-worthy in the late unhappy Captain of the *Northumberland*, if, when he had exchanged a Broadside with the windermost Ship of the Enemy, instead of bearing down to the Leewardmost, he had haul'd his Wind and made the best of his Way ; the Ship might have been saved and the Lives of many People ; but we are to suppose his Courage rose even to a Mad-  
ness

ness, a Madness laudable in the present Rule of fighting, if you will agree with the Thoughts of Sir *Edward Howard*, whom the Enquirer quotes.

It may appear highly reasonable to those who never were at Sea, that two Ships of equal Force meeting in the very same Weather, that the Situation must be as equally advantageous for the one, as the other, and that then, the supposed Difference can only be in the Healthiness or otherwise of each Ship (a Consideration ever to be trusted to on both Sides.) This carries no more than a Gloss of Reason to deceive those who are unacquainted; for the Weather has not the same Effect on one Ship as it has on another, by as much as one Ship is in her Nature stiffer than the other, by being of better Dimensions. If Ships bring too fairly to engage, the first Reason holds good, but if the stiffer Ship takes the Advantage of a running Fight, being either to Windward or Leeward, and the Weather such as by pressure of Sail, the cranker Ship carries her Leeports under Water, what Equality can there be said to be in this Action? The one carries Sail, and fights her lower and upper Deck Guns; the other lies along in the Water by a pressure of Sail, has at most but her upper Deck Guns to fight, and has all her Men open to the Fire of the Enemy, (in case she is to Windward.) The heaviest Weight of Metal being on the lower Deck, from thence it must be expected the greatest Execution will be done, and consequently the Ship who can fight her lower Tier has all the Advantages could be wished.

It will never follow, nor can it ever be made appear, that Ships are alike in Stiffness, or in bearing the like Pressure of Sail, Arguments on  
that



that Head are only a kind of Pretence to deceive, because some People are apt, when they don't understand it, to impute it to want of Judgment in themselves, not placing as it really is, the design of the Writer to puzzle the Cause, by gilding it over with the specious Pretence of fair reasoning.

It has been always a Complaint in our Navy, that our two Deck Ships are not of equal Force or Strength to those of *France*, or *Spain*, and that their Decks are so slight as not to be able to bear the Weight of Metal usually allotted them, or of proper Proportions to support any great Pressure of Sail, or carry their Ports high enough out of the Water: In all which the *French* and *Spaniards* are known to excel. Can there be a plainer Demonstration of this Assertion than by looking back upon the *Princessa*, who was able so long to engage three *English* 70 Gun Ships. Surely these two Deck Ships must have great Advantages in their Building, and being well mann'd, to be able to dispute a Victory so long with three Ships of reputed Force.

I remember the Opinion of that great and experienced Officer who lately commanded in the *West Indies*, upon the present State of the Navy, " That ours was a declining Navy in the  
 " Art of Ship-building, at a Time when *France*  
 " and *Spain* have been greatly improving in it ;  
 " that their Ships of 60 or 64 Guns would be  
 " found of greater Dimensions than those we  
 " call such with us, and at least as big as our  
 " 70 Gun Ship, for they don't generally crowd  
 " their Ships with Guns as we do : In which I  
 " think them much in the right, and that we  
 " cripple

“cripple our Ships by it without any real Convenience arising from it.”

The World knows our Ships sail as well as the *French* or *Spaniards*, but are in no Degree equal in Force, Rate for Rate. They overbear us by much in their Number of Men, the Breadth and Depth of their Ships, which must consequently make them stiffer and enable them to carry heavier Metal.

I would not infer from hence that *British* Ships of War, are to avoid fighting the Enemy at these Advantages, but there are many Circumstances that may happen, when they ought to be considered. It is not very easy to conceive, that if an Enemy has a Mind to make a running fight (having the Advantage of using both his Tier of Guns, by the Uprightness of his Ship,) that his Adversary, who has neither of these Advantages, but on the other Side can neither open a Port below, or do Execution with his upper Deck Guns, will hardly be able to compel the Enemy's Ship to bring too, to engage; because 'tis giving up to his Adversary all Advantages, and bringing the Action to a doubtful Issue. When the Wind blows so fresh that a Ship heels, as not to be able to throw a Shot 30 Yards from the upper or Quarter-Deck Guns, which way can the Enemy be annoy'd, either on the Bow or Quarter? In this Situation you must go so near to do either, that she will then be able pour her whole Broadside into you.

I shall now proceed to consider the Evidence as they appear by the Depositions printed with the Minutes of the Court Martial: and which as a strong and corroborating Evidence ought to be are all in one Tone.

I would

I would desire to ask the Enquirer in what Form or Manner he expected to find the Evidence of the Officers, &c. who were Eye-witnesses to every Incident that happen'd during this Chace. I always imagin'd in Courts of Justice, that the more pertinent and positive the Evidence was in the smallest Facts, the more Weight was carried thereby. Can several Eye-Witnesses to one, and the same Thing differ very much in any Relation of the Facts? Where a Judgment upon such Facts may be demanded, in that, one Man may differ from another; they are not alike Judges of Distance, or go by the same Rule of discerning distant Objects: But this Insinuation of the Enquirer seems to me, only to introduce the Characters of the Gentlemen who compos'd the Court Martial, and as he has now prepared his Reader in Prejudice both of the Court and Evidence (the only Appeal the Gentleman had, whose Conduct is thus call'd in Question) he leaves Captain M— defenceless, to be calumniated just as he thinks proper. If a pretended Zeal for his Majesty's Service, or as a Votary to Honour, he was oblig'd to re-examine his Conduct; why are false Facts asserted, the Evidence of Officers, and Men of Character invalidated, and the Honour and Abilities of two Admirals and fifteen Captains suspected and impeached?

Why, if these are necessary for any Purpose of the Enquirers, does he not discover himself? why not throw off the Veil, and justify in open Day, what he has taken so much Pains to make the World believe?

It must be observed that the Enquirer has only thought proper to animadvert upon the Evidence given by the Officers, &c. of the *Hamp-*

*ton-Court*, but I would ask him, why the *Dreadnought's* did not come under his Consideration? The Reason is too plain, for as those Officers corroborate the Evidence, given in the Depositions of the *Hampton-Court's* Officers in every Circumstance; this would only make against him and confute his Designs.

With what Contempt should a Writer be treated who pretends to be a fair Enquirer, and leaves out half the Evidence? (a Confirmation to the impartial Reader in Support of the Evidence given upon Oath by the *Hampton-Court's* People.)

When an Officer who is loaded with Infamy and publick Clamour, submits his Actions to the Censure of a Court-Martial, provided and establish'd in Law; and for his Justification or Appeal, relies on the Proceedings thereof, which in Regard to his Character he is allowed to publish, for the general Satisfaction; shall I say, an Officer be then told "that the Evidence  
" and Facts are not well enough concerted, to  
" answer the Purpose for which they were published, or to satisfy any knowing impartial  
" Judicature." After this 'tis a very reasonable Doubt, whether a Decree even from the highest Court of Judicature, the House of P—s would escape the Censure of this Enquirer, as 'tis too evident on his Part what latent Prejudice and Enmity lays in his Heart.

The first Deposition is Lieutenant *Mac Donald* " of the *Hampton-Court*. He first gives an Account of the bearing of the Chace; the Time  
" the *Sunderland* carried away her Maintop-mast,  
" and the Distance the *Dreadnought* was from  
" the *Hampton-Court* in the Evening, when she  
" was near up with the Chace." He then describes

scribes them, and gives an Account of what happen'd in the Night.

These Incidents may seem very immaterial to the Reader, yet to a Court of Enquiry very useful.

Had the anonymous Enquirer consider'd the Time the *Sunderland* carry'd away her Main-top-mast, he could not so often mistake in supposing her the next Day in Chace of the Enemy and coming up to the Assistance of the other two Ships.

I must conclude this Forgetfulness, a very material Circumstance, in his Favour, or he would not have impos'd upon us, by this Question. "Whether if Captain *M---n* had engag'd the "*Neptune*, the *Dreadnought* and *Sunderland* "would not probably have come up in good "Time?"

Pray, Sir, let me ask you, as you are a Seaman (tho' Seamen don't use to talk in Disguise) whether the *Sunderland* carrying away her Main-top-mast at 2 p. M. (the Chace going large and running by the Log between 7 and 10 Knots from that Time to the next Day at noon) could keep in sight of them, so as to come up next Day, and pray see the Depositions of Lieutenant *Irvine* and Lieutenant *Cathcart*, who say, "We "saw the Captain bring too her Chace, and soon "after lost sight of her and the *Sunderland*." Does the Enquirer conclude that the Sea is like a beaten Road, that when Ships have lost Company they can meet again by waiting for one another? Indeed you must not abuse us in this Manner; but make publick Recantation for this Imposition upon common Sense and Reason.

Lieutenant *Mac Donald* goes on with his Evidence, and tells us, "That the *Hampton-Court* "was

“ was a Breast of the Enemy in the Morning,  
 “ and the *Dreadnought* a League a Stern, That  
 “ Captain *M—n* then called a Consultation of  
 “ of his Officers, as he had done before, to ask  
 “ their Opinions, whether in his Situation he  
 “ should engage the Enemy before the *Dread-*  
 “ *nought* came up, he gives his own, and the  
 “ Officers Opinions, and Reasons for not enga-  
 “ ging.”

The first Question necessary to ask here is :  
 Whether any Commander ought to have engaged  
 the Enemy under the Disadvantages that are  
 proved, without consulting his Officers, and fol-  
 lowing the Opinion of the Majority, where good  
 Reasons were offered? What Use can Officers be  
 of, if they are not to assist the Commander in  
 Emergencies of this Sort? and what must be the  
 Consequence of such Commanders following  
 their own Sentiments without regarding such Ad-  
 vice? In case of any Miscarriage under such  
 Circumstances, as the Loss of a Ship, or the  
 Enemy's escaping, I am sure the Delinquent  
 would deserve Death, and what's worse to have  
 the Torrent of popular Clamour ran high against  
 him. A rash Action may sometimes be attend-  
 ed with Success; but even in that Case it does  
 not deserve Applause; nay in many Circum-  
 stances at Sea would be censured and punished.  
 No matter what may be offer'd against Consul-  
 tations, but 'tis too manifest how much this  
 Nation has suffer'd from a Contempt in Com-  
 manders of being advised, or stooping so low  
 as to ask or follow any Opinion but their own.  
 To illustrate this, reflect on the Causes of all the  
 naval Miscarriages since the War.

Mr. *Mac Donald* further says “ That they  
 “ all agreed it would be rash and impracticable

“ to engage the Enemy till the *Dreadnought*  
 “ came up. That the *French* made some shew  
 “ of offering Battle by hauling up their Main-  
 “ sails and turling their Spritsails ; that the  
 “ *Hampton-Court* was then alongside of the  
 “ headmost Ship, shortned Sail likewise and lay  
 “ by her ; that in a few Minutes, the *French*  
 “ made all the Sail they were able, to prevent  
 “ the *Dreadnought*’s coming up ; that upon  
 “ this extraordinary Motion of the *French*,  
 “ Captain *M—n* consulted his Officers again,  
 “ whether they thought it practicable to engage  
 “ them both as the *Dreadnought* could not come  
 “ up ? which as we could expect no Assistance  
 “ from the *Dreadnought*, until we had received  
 “ several Broadfides from each Ship, we foresaw  
 “ that if they had disabled us, the *Dreadnought*  
 “ would become an easy Prey.

“ He recounts the Force of the Enemy, the  
 “ Situation of his own Ship in regard to her Lee-  
 “ Ports being under Water, the Reason for con-  
 “ tinuing the Chace in hopes of moderate Wea-  
 “ ther, and the Opinion of Captain *Fowke* and  
 “ his Officers, concluding with the Reasons for  
 “ leaving off the Chace.”

As I do not doubt but the Minutes of the  
 Court Martial have either been perused or are  
 now lying before the the Reader. I did not  
 chuse to repeat more of this Lieutenant’s Deposi-  
 tions, that I might not be thought too prolix.  
 His Evidence is clear, full, and indisputable, and  
 one might have imagined could not have ad-  
 mitted the least Caviel, tho’ the Enquirer had  
 more at Stake, than this Lieutenant, who is  
 declaring the Truth, of which he was both an  
 Eye-Witness, and a Judge, and doing Justice  
 to the Character of an injured Gentleman.

The

The first Remark upon Mr. *Mac Donald's* Evidence by the Enquirer is for a Purpose not obvious to the Reader, and consequently not to be considered. But the next will admit of this Discussion.

The Depositions all I think clearly prove that the *Hampton-Court* was about a Musket Shot from the headmost Ship of the Enemy, that several of the Officers tried the Lower, Upper Deck, Quarter Deck, and Forecastle Guns by laying down the Metal in the Carriages, and they are said “not to be able to carry a Shot above “forty Yards from the Ship.” How can the Enquirer then propose such a Question, as the trying a few Shot? must not such an Experiment have been ridiculous in the Commander, and the Enemy have laugh’d at him? If the Metal is lower’d as much as can possibly be in the Carriages, are not those who point a Gun judges, whether a Shot will reach the Distance design’d, especially so short a one as that of a Musquet Shot; what then becomes of the rest of his Queries? “Of disabling the Enemy, their shortening Sail to engage a Ship, who had not a “Gun would reach them, or having a fair “Chance to stop them ’till the *Dreadnought* came “up.” I am sorry he has picked up no proper Questions, but what have been talked about in every Coffee-House by People not pretending to be Judges.

In the next place he admits, “That the upper “Deck Guns might not carry far, but immediately falls into an Astonishment that it should “happen so in a 70 Gun, heretofore concluded “very stiff.” I look upon this as forced, without any Foundation to support it; this Enquirer seems to take the Liberty of concluding Things  
for



for Facts which serve his Purpose; tho' established neither in Truth or Reason. He pretends in another Place to prove this Assertion of the Stiffness of the *Hampton-Court* by saying, " That when Mr. *Balchen* was unhappily lost, " the *Hampton-Court* was then in Company, " the Gale much Stronger (I suppose it's meant then at the Time of the Chace) " the Ships obliged to crowd Sail to clear the Caskets, yet the " *Hampton-Court* did not lye along".

This is said, and this I suppose is to be taken in Evidence for a Proof of his Argument. But I would desire the Enquirer to reconsider, that the *Hampton-Court* return'd from Sea just after the Fleet went out, having sprung her Foremast, and was laying at *Spithead* at the Time of the Storm, in which Mr. *Balchen* in the *Victory* was lost. A Man who once forfeits his Word, or deceives you with Untruths, is hardly to be credited in any Thing he afterwards asserts; especially in the Character of an impartial Enquirer. I must again desire the Gentleman to recollect, what Lieutenant *Vance* says in his Deposition, " That he being quarter'd upon the Fore- " castle, laid down the Metal of one of the chace " Guns, which was got a thwart Ships upon the " Forecastle in order to make a fighting Gun of " it, and that in his Judgment, she would not " have carried a Shot 30 or 40 Yards from the " Ship.

Here are all the Experiments, tryed as you desire, (except firing) which upon Recollection you may now think was not very proper, as the Shot must immediately have gone into the Water: but perhaps you don't care to believe any of the Evidence, at least you shew yourself very little inclined to do it, by making such very immaterial

Remarks

Remarks thereon. Is not Mr. *Mac Donald* very clear; and does not the Log-Book prove, that after the two *French* Ships made Sail, the Wind came forward a Point. and they haul'd up half a Point more? In Consequence, as they had before sail'd large, the *French* might now beat the *Hampton-Court*, by over bearing her with Sail, by the upright going of the Enemy and the *Hampton-Court's* laying along. Does it appear that after speaking with the *Dreadnought* the *Hampton Court* ever came up with them again? Have not all Ships their particular ways of sailing best, some before the Wind, some quartering, some a Point or two from the Wind and others close haul'd? To shew the Reason of this Difference would be only a Digression and not appertaining to the main Point. But sure the Enquirer would not have been so often mistaken if he had consider'd Mr. *Mac Donald's* Evidence a little better, or had not wrote, with his Blood boiling into a Ferment of Rage or Malice. Does either that Gentleman's Examination before the Court, or his Deposition prove, that the *Hampton-Court* gain'd upon the Enemy after they had made sail, and haul'd nearer the Wind, and spoke with the *Dreadnought*? No, this is an absolute Imposition upon our Understanding, invented to take off the Certainty of his Evidence, and a Magic in him to divert us from the Truth, and make us believe what he pleases.

The next Piece of Civility is paid to Mr. *Joseph Mead*, who appears to be Mate of the *Hampton-Court*, and had the Care of the Log-Book during the Chace (the Master being sick) I must in this Case beg the Reader's Patience to transcribe the Questions of the Court, from the  
Minutes

Minutes of the Court-Martial, and compare it with the Enquirer's Quotation, by which 'tis discernable, how candid are his Representations of Facts, that he cannot err in, but wilfully.

“ Mr. *Joseph Mead* is ask'd whether the two  
 “ Ships they were in Chace off lay along in the  
 “ Manner the *Hampton-Court*, and *Dreadnought*  
 “ are represented to have done, in the Time of  
 “ the Chace.

Answers, “ That they seemed to him not to  
 “ lay along at all, or at least very little, and that  
 “ he believed they had their Lee Lower-Deck  
 “ Ports open, and some of their Guns run out  
 “ of them.

“ The Enquirer says (Page 5.) Mr. *Joseph*  
 “ *Mead* being ask'd, whether the two Ships lay  
 “ along, like the *Dreadnought* and *Hampton-*  
 “ *Court*.

“ *Believes* they did not lye along at all, or  
 “ very little ; that their lower Deck Lee-Ports  
 “ were open, and had their Guns out.

Let the impartial Reader consider the different Sense of these Answers. The Former deliver'd by the Party on Oath, the latter contrived by the Enquirer, and afterwards considered by himself as a real Truth.

Mr. *Mead*, says on Oath, *he believes* the Lee-Ports of the Enemy's Ships were open. Why does he believe it ? Because he saw the Enemies Ships not lay along at all, and has therefore just Grounds for such a Belief. Besides as the *Hampton-Court* was a-breast of one of them he might possibly see through her Weather-Ports, if her Lee-Ports had been up, as the Enemy is represented to be upright in the Water. There might not indeed be any Occasion for their carrying their Lee-Ports open ; but I am sure 'tis im-

possible, with common Modesty, to contradict, what an Eye-Witness swears he believes and has just grounds for such Presumption. Why is the Sense of Mr. *Mead's* Interrogatory thus inverted? If the Enquirer had been candid, the Words in the Minutes of the Court, had been sufficient without any Alteration; but the Word *Belief* is left out, and the Enquirer gives you a positive Oath, "That the Lee-Ports were open," when no such Construction can be made against the plain Sense of the Words. In short, you are to look upon Mr. *Mead* with no Credit, nor believe the Veracity of him or any other who are particular in Circumstance; because they oppose the Enquirer's Purpose too much.

The next Evidence is Mr. *Trant*, whom the Enquirist thinks fit to be extraordinary witty upon, because he finds his own Arguments grow weaker and weaker. Pray, Sir, how came it under your Consideration again, the Distance of our Ships from the Enemy's, and that the *Hampton-Court's* Lee-Guns would not reach them?

You have already expounded largely upon that Head, and I shall refer you back for an Answer.

But whether Mr. *Trant* was wiser than his first Lieutenant or not, he might think himself as good a Judge of their Distance from the *Dreadnought* at the Time the Ships haul'd their Mainfails up, and likewise observe, what she gained, and from thence form to himself an Idea of the Time she might be getting up to them. Why must the first Lieutenant be wiser than the Second, or the Opinion of the third Lieutenant prevail more with you than either of them? The Reason is plain, his Judgment in that particular Point might tally better with yours, consequently

frequently he must be fairer in his Examination. I should imagine if ever you have any Rank at Sea, you will be remarkably serviceable to that Gentleman, because his Opinion is something different from his Brother-Officers ; but that L——d, who ever puts such a Seamen as you, at the Head of a Command, deserves to suffer Indignities, and a Dismission from St. *James's* to *Moorfields*. Mr. *Trant* is said to give his Advice not to fight, “ Because the Enemy could  
 “ employ more Guns, which the Enquirer allows  
 “ very possible if they had none to fight, and says  
 “ the *French* could have found some.” Can any Thing be so ridiculous as such Remarks, indeed I must be justly blamed to take up the Readers Time in repeating them.

I think it very needless on my Part to tire the Reader with a Repetition of the Evidence at large, because the Minutes, well considered, will confute every Thing the Enquirer has advanc'd ; but the remaining Two, are the Boatswain and Gunner, and I think without the latter the Evidence could hardly be perfect.

Is not a Gunner supposed to be a proper Judge how far the Guns will carry to do Execution ? Or by pointing a Gun when the Metal is lower'd, to know how many Yards she will carry from the Ship before the Shot takes the Water ? Is not Mr. *Kirk's* Deposition very positive in this Circumstance ? He tells you :

“ That the Ship heeling so much that the  
 “ Lower-Deck Ports were generally half under  
 “ Water, by order he got the Lee-Guns on the  
 “ Upper-Deck in, to ease the Ship, which re-  
 “ quired 12 or 14 Men with both Tackles to  
 “ bouze them in. That about two in the Af-  
 “ ternoon, when there was less Wind, tried the

“ after Gun on the Lower Deck, which was the  
 “ only Port they could open, and found within  
 “ Pistol-Shot the Lee-Gun to point in the Water,  
 “ and the Weather-Gun at that distance would  
 “ fire over any Ship’s Mast-Head ; that the  
 “ Foremast Gun on the Lower-Deck was tried,  
 “ but that full Seas coming in so fast on them  
 “ the Ports were lower’d immediately, the  
 “ *French Ships* going then almost upright.”

What is intended to be proved by his Evidence I think appears very Plain? First, the Nearness of the *Hampton-Court* to the Enemy, and the heeling of the Ship at that Time: Secondly, the Impossibility of any Shot reaching them, in that Position; and lastly, the Trial that was made to use their lower Tier Guns by opening a Port forward and abaft. The Court-Martial had the Deposition in full before them; what other Questions could be proposed to this Officer, but relating to his own Duty? and the same in regard to the Boatswain. The Enquirer chuses to drop their Depositions, because they are too strong a Confirmation of what has been already deposed by the Lieutenants, and stifles them with a labour’d Simile, of *Murder, Brats, and Baby-Clouts.*

The Resolution of a *British* Sailor is too well known to comment upon, but their Want of Conduct is a Misfortune that leads to many Errors.

You will hardly ever find a Ship’s Company, that is not for engaging an Enemy, let the Odds be ever so many, and the Advantages against them very great.

When ever this happens ’tis a Misfortune to the Commander and Officers; because Sense, Reason, and Honour are to govern them, whilst the unthinking Crew are hardly to be restrained;

it

it will naturally follow in such a Case ; that the Conduct of the Commander and Officers will be censured, and from thence it may be necessary to enquire into their Conduct. It may be asked who are the Accusers ? Why the People, the Ship's Company are the Accusers, and from among them sensible, clever Fellows may be found.

We find the Court-Martial, of which I have been speaking of, not only examined the Officers of the four *British* Ships, but called in two common Seamen belonging to the *Hampton-Court*, “ viz. *Ralph Dicke* and *William Valentine*. *Ralph Dicke* was quarter'd at the Foremast Gun upon “ the Upper-Deck, and says he is very positive “ if any of them had been fired, they would “ not have thrown a Shot half Way to the E- “ nemy, tho' they were distant from the *Hamp- “ ton* not a Mile ; none of the Lower-Deck Guns “ could be run out at all, the Ports being half “ Way under Water.”

The Question being ask'd him, he says “ he “ thinks the Captain would be very much to “ blame, to have engaged at so great a Disad- “ vantage.”

Upon this Evidence the Enquirer seems to build great Hopes of shewing the Distance, the *Hampton-Court* was from the Enemy's Ships, and pleases himself greatly upon the Advantages of this Discovery, by describing to the Reader the common reputed Distance of a Randum Musquet Shot ; and the Distance a Cannon will carry to do Execution, drawing a Conclusion from thence, that these Ships were never nearer than a Mile. How easily his Faith comes and goes? Mr. *Dicke's* meets with good Credit ; because he happens not to be very particular in his Distance. Can any Man read this without a Smile, a Smile of Con-

Contempt for such an Insult upon our Understanding?

*Dicke* says, “ That the *Hampton-Court* Guns  
“ would not reach half Way to the Enemy, tho’  
“ they were distant from the *Hampton Court* not  
“ a Mile.

What other Inference can be drawn from this, than that he is not very positive, or perhaps not a Judge of Distance, and therefore in general Terms concludes the Ships within a Mile, how much, he does not pretend to say, but he tells you immediately that the Shot by his Observation would not carry half the Distance.

Is it an impartial Examination of Evidence to come at Facts, to invert the Sense and Meaning of a Man’s Words ? Is there no Difference between a positive Assertion “ of a Mile Distance,” or not a Mile ? The Difference I am sure is great let the Enquirer determine it as he pleases.

But now let us see what the other Seaman *William Valentine* says. “ He was quarter’d at the  
“ ninth Gun upon Deck, that he and others did  
“ lower the Metal of the Lee-Gun all that was  
“ possible, to form a Judgment how far it was  
“ likely to carry, and believed had a Shot been  
“ fired out of it, it would not have gone twenty Yards from the Ship, and the Weather-Gun  
“ would not have annoy’d the Enemy, tho’ they  
“ had been to Windward as the Shot must have  
“ gone up into the Air, the Ship heeled so  
“ much.”

The Enquirer does not care to meddle with this Evidence ; because he proves too much for his Purpose. He is too close and positive in his Answers, to give him an Opportunity for Contradiction ; he had Curiosity enough to try his Gun, and speaks from Experience, but he  
leaves



leaves him to the Consideration of the Reader, pouring forth Invectives from the Bitterness of his Heart.

I should have been glad, and think 'twas but reasonable to expect, that the impartial Enquirer should have introduced the Substance of the Captain or some of the Officers of the *Dreadnought's* Depositions, because as a good deal of Pains has been taken to invalidate the Evidences of the *Hampton-Court's* Officers, &c. (as Parties too nearly concern'd to speak the Truth) the Reader ought to have had the whole fairly stated, that every one might have form'd a Judgment of all the Proceedings: But since the Enquirer was not candid enough to do this, I must desire the Reader's Patience to introduce the Substance of Captain *Fowkes's* (Commander of the *Dreadnought*) Deposition, and with it conclude the whole of the Evidence.

“ Captain *Fowkes* deposes that at 2 p. M. the  
 “ *Sunderland* carried away her main-top Mast,  
 “ at 5 lost sight of the *Sunderland* and Captain;  
 “ just before Night the *Hampton-Court* was near  
 “ two Leagues a-head of the *Dreadnought*, that  
 “ the Chace kept close together, the *Dreadnought*  
 “ raising them very slow; that the *Hampton-Court*  
 “ and he kept Company together all Night, and  
 “ in sight of the Enemy as he judged they had  
 “ shortned sail, and he kept crowding on.

“ The next Morning both the *Hampton-Court*  
 “ and the Chace went from him, that about 10  
 “ when the Chace hauled up their Main-sails, &c.  
 “ the *Hampton-Court* was then a-breast of the  
 “ Chace, and the *Dreadnought* three Miles a-  
 “ stern, that he continued the same Sail he  
 “ had in order to get up with them. That the  
 “ Wind at this Time, as well as during the Time  
 of

“ of the Chace, blew very fresh with Squalls,  
 “ which lay the *Dreadnought* so along, that it  
 “ was impracticable to fight her Lee or Weather  
 “ Guns upon the Lower-Deck. That he judged  
 “ the *Hampton-Court* was in no better Situation  
 “ by her laying along as he likewise observed ;  
 “ that the Chace notwithstanding the Freshness  
 “ of the Wind, and frequent Squalls kept re-  
 “ markably upright, and was therefore in pain  
 “ lest the *Hampton-Court* should come to an  
 “ Engagement with the Enemy with so great a  
 “ Disadvantage, and be disabled before he could  
 “ get up to her Assistance,

“ That as soon as the *Hampton-Court* had  
 “ haul’d up her Main Sail, the Enemy set all  
 “ the sail they could, and stood away from her.

“ The *Hampton-Court* some time after back’d  
 “ her mizen top Sail to speak to him, and desi-  
 “ red him to consult his Officers, in what Man-  
 “ ner to proceed, judging the Enemy were de-  
 “ termined to come to no Engagement while the  
 “ *Hampton-Court* and *Dreadnought* were toge-  
 “ ther, and as Captain *M—n* could not with-  
 “ the Sail he carry’d open any of his Lee Low-  
 “ er-Deck Ports, or throw a Shot fifty Yards  
 “ from the Ship with his Lee Quarter-Deck  
 “ Guns, he and his Officers judged it would be  
 “ Rashness to engage alone.

“ Captain *Forbes* then consulted his Officers,  
 “ and told Captain *M—n* his and their Opi-  
 “ nions, that it would be best to keep to Wind-  
 “ ward of the Chace till the Weather became  
 “ moderate, and then if both Ships could get  
 “ up with the Enemy to engage them. Cap-  
 “ tain *M—n* said he and his Officers were of the  
 “ of the same Opinion. The Chace continued  
 “ till the Evening, and he observed the Enemy  
 “ gain

“ gain’d much of them, being close upon a Wind,  
 “ which he imputed to their being more upright,  
 “ therefore carrying more Sail than the *Hampton-*  
 “ *Court* or *Dreadnought*, who at this Time carri-  
 “ ed their Lee lower Deck Ports in the Water,  
 “ Near Night a Consultation was held, and  
 “ agreed to leave off chace, in Consideration of  
 “ the Soundings and Distance from *Ushant*, which  
 “ they must either have seen, or been a Shore  
 “ upon by Morning.”

Mr. *Robert Wilkinson* the Master of the *Dread-*  
*nought*, and the other Officers confirming the  
 above Facts in every Point, ’twould be only  
 a Repetition to transcribe any more of the De-  
 positions, since they are easily referr’d to in the  
 Minutes of the Court-Martial.

Now I presume the Reader has the Evidence  
 set in a true Light before him, disintangled from  
 those false Objections which the Enquirer had raised  
 from his own Invention, to serve the Purpose of  
 his malicious, false, and detracting Enquiry. And  
 from the many and strong Proofs of Facts, both  
 from the Officers of the *Hamp’ou-Court* and *Dread-*  
*nought*, will be convinced that Captain *M——n*  
 did all that was possible to bring the Enemy to  
 an Engagement, in case his Comrade could have  
 come up. That in the Situation his Ship was,  
 in regard to laying along, and thereby rendring  
 her Guns uselefs, it must have been deemed  
 Madness in him to have attacked the Enemy and  
 made a running Fight, to have sustained the Fire  
 of two Ships, without being able to throw a Shot  
 into them, and as this must have been the Case,  
 how highly probable it is, that she might have  
 been soon disabled, the Consequence thereof had  
 been the Loss of both Ships.

I shall consider, in the next Place, the Questions  
 which the Enquirer has thrown before the Reader,

and I dare say, give them a more reasonable and plainer Solution than he could wish.

“ Whether if Captain *M——n* had stood nearer to the *Neptune* and engaged her, the *Dreadnought* and *Sunderland* would not probably have come up in good Time?”

Here seems to be a fair stated Question, and indeed at first View would cause a little Hesitation for Answer; because if there had been a Probability of the *Dreadnought* and *Sunderland* coming up in good Time, Captain *M——n* had been very blameable in not attacking the Enemy under any Disadvantages, seeing that good Assistance was at Hand to succour him, in case he had been disabled; and if he could have brought the Enemy's Ships to an Engagement with him alone, and thereby have obliged them to shorten sail, in some time these Ships might have come up, and whether he had been then disabled or not was not material? But how widely different is the Fact from the stated Question? The *Sunderland* has already been proved to be out of Sight the Day before; what Reply then can be made to such wilful Mistakes, but that the Enquirer's Ends had miscarried without it, and was therefore obliged to have recourse to this Means, to impose upon the Nation, and shew his Recour to this injured Gentleman.

When a wilful Falshood is urged before the Honourable House, to which the Enquirer addresses himself, 'tis a Sort of Perjury and ought to meet with the same Treatment.

The next Question is, “ Whether the *Hampton-Court* could have been in any Danger of being taken by the two *French* Ships, even if she had been alone: but as her Consorts were one within three Miles, the other making the best of her way up, tho' at a greater Distance,

“ it

“ it was at all probable that the *Hampton-Court*  
 “ could have engaged them without much Ha-  
 “ zard until at least one of the other two came  
 “ up to her Assistance, tho’ it had been three  
 “ Hours.”

’Tis very Plain from this repeated Conclusion of the Enquirist’s of the *Sunderland*’s being in sight and making the best of her way up, That he is himself of Opinion, without the Hopes of her Assistance Mr. *M—n* ought not have run the Hazard of engaging the Enemy with so great a Hazard of Disabling his own Ship, in which Case the *Dreadnought* must have fallen easily into their Hands, and I dare say neither Captain *M—n*, nor any of his Officers, would have hesitated one Minute in regard to engaging them under any Disadvantages, had the *Sunderland* been in sight, or any Probability of her coming up. The Assistance of a third Ship had put the Thing beyond Consideration; for let the Fate of the *Hampton-Court* have been what it would, before the *Dreadnought* and *Sunderland* had come to succour her; in all Probability she might have stood out till they had, and then their Success is not to be disputed. If a Man argues upon a wrong Supposition, and sets out upon false Facts, every Thing he has advanced must fall to the Ground, and is himself, either by Mistake or wilfully, deceived. Many Reasons might be urged why the *Hampton-Court* ought to have engaged under every Disadvantage, provided the Assistance had been at Hand, as the Enquirist so often concludes; and from his frequent Arguments of that Sort I am induced to think this Mistake has made him set out upon a wrong Principle?

I shall now proceed to shew what would in Reason and the common Observation of Things

have consequently followed if Mr. *M—n* had engaged the *French* Ships alone, and what Assistance could be expected from the *Dreadnought*, when by the general Observation of the several Officers she must have been three or four Hours coming up, after the *French* had haul'd up their Mainfails, and furl'd their Spritsails.

The *Hampton-Court* appears at this Time, to be within Musquet Shot of the Enemy, and abreast of the *Neptune* with her Mainfail up, and taking in her small Sails, concluding the Enemy was bringing too to engage, notwithstanding the Ship is eased by the Weight of a Mainfail, Crossjack, and Spritsail, she is proved to lay so much along in the Water, as not to be able to open a Port below, nor Point a Gun from the upper or quarter Deck, to carry above 50 Yards from the Ship, her Men at this Time open to the Enemies small Shot by the heeling of the Ship, and they, by being to leeward and almost upright in the Water, shelter'd from his.

The Enemy perceiving that the *Hampton-Court* did not bear down to engage them both (as they were able, and must intend to make a running Fight, that the *Dreadnought* might not come up,) immediately set their Mainfails and all the Sail they could, hauling the Wind; finding they could overbear our Ships with Sail. Now it follows; What must have been the Consequence of Mr. *M—n's* bearing down upon the Enemy and engaging them in that Situation?

As he was ahead of the *Fleuron*, he must have endeavour'd to have got upon the *Neptune's* Bow, and within 30 or 40 Yards, or his Shot from his upper Deck Guns would not have taken Place, and by this Means have sustain'd the Fire of the greatest Part of the *Neptune's* upper and lower Deck Guns and small Arms; for as there was a

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Necessity to employ so many Men to bouze the Guns in, in Consequence they must have been all kept upon Deck without the least Covering, and the Enemy's not at all exposed.

If the *Neptune* had found the least Inconvenience from her Situation (which is hardly to conceive she could, from a Ship in the *Hampton-Court's* Position) she would have edged away and by that Means have brought the *Hampton-Court* a breast of her, and fired her whole Broad-side, the *Hampton-Court* in Consequence would have been more upright and could have fired her Guns with more Certainty: But it does not follow, that in this Situation the Enemy would have haul'd their Forefails up, because, as the Wind is now supposed to be a little before or on the Beam, the Sparks and Wads must have blown clear of the Forefail, and not high enough to effect the Maintop Sail. From hence the Reader, is to conclude, the *Neptune* and *Hampton-Court* sailing large, and consequently both going to Leeward of the *Fleurion* and *Dreadnought*, who kept on their Course. The Wind you are to understand blew very fresh: The *Neptune* therefore having brought the *Hampton-Court* to Leeward of his Comfort, as well as the *Dreadnought*, might have got all ready at once, haul'd up her fore Sail, and took in her small Sails, which before the *Hampton-Court* could perceive, she would have shot a head far enough for the *Neptune* to have wore round under her Stern and raked her fore and aft, then hugg'd the Wind and stood upon the other Tack to the W. S. W. this would have brought the *Hampton-Court* to Leeward of both Ships, then by being upon a Wind and carrying a good Deal of Sail, the *Hampton-Court* would have been in a worse Situation than ever, because she would now have been to Leeward, and in  
course

course in the Enemy's Power to take or leave ; her weather Guns must have carry'd over the Enemy's Ships Mastheads, and the Sparks and Wads have return'd into her Bosom. We must in the next Place consider ; what would be the Situation of the *Dreadnought* who has all along kept her Wind, and standing to the E. N. E. the Enemy to the W. S. W. to be sure she must be to Windward and head of them all, but the Disadvantage which she has now to encounter (being supposed a breast and to Windward of the *Fleurion*) is much greater than was the *Hampton-Court's*, when abreast the *Neptune*, the *Dreadnought* being a Ship of less Force, no stiffer and in Consequence her Leeparts under Water. What Use the Enemy would have made of these Advantages, I cannot pretend to say ? But the Conduct of a good Officer will not suffer the Enemy to take any one that can be avoided.

I shall now return to the Ships in their first Position, the *Hampton-Court* was abreast of the *Neptune*, within Musquet Shot, or a proper Distance for Ships to engage, the *French* saw this and made the necessary Preparation on their Part, by hauling up their main Sails, for it appears by the Minutes, at this Time the Wind was southerly, and their Course being East they had the Wind nigh upon the Beam, which must have blown the Wads or any Sparks clear of the Foresail, tho' the Guns had been fired so far forward as the Forecastle. This must be very evident to every Seaman, and was so to the *French*, who certainly knew how to conduct themselves with Safety. The *Hampton-Court*, even at this Distance, could not bring a Gun to bear, and had she engaged near enough for any of her Upper-Deck Guns to reach, the *Neptune*, (the headmost Ship of the Enemy) could have discharged her Broadside into her, without any Dan-



ger from her own Guns, or even those of the *Hampton-Court* ; and if the *Fleurion* the sternmost Ship had not liked her Situation, she (as she always spared the other Sail, and consequently sail'd best) would have gone a-head, and fired her Stern-Chace at the *Hampton-Court*, and thus by keeping a running Fight, as 'tis plain they might have done, without bringing too, what Success could the *Hampton-Court* expect, or what Assistance from the *Dreadnought's* coming up ? These most naturally were the Reflections of Captain *M—n* and his Officers at that time, and have all the Appearance of such Consequences.

It is a Presumption without the least Glimpse of Reason, to suppose Captain *M—n* could have obliged these Ships to bring too to engage him, as 'tis very plain the Enemy (tho' too Leeward) as the Wind was could have fought with their Foresails set, without the least Hazard more than the Ship to Windward. I hope I have now made it extremely obvious to the Reader, that there was not the least Probability of engaging these two *French* Ships without an imminent Hazard of losing both our own, by fighting two to one ; and I don't doubt, but as I have confuted the unfair Arguments of the Enquirer, both as to Matters of Fact, and the Remarks upon the Evidence, I have cleared up the Character of the Gentleman, for whom, from a Motive of common Justice, I am an Advocate, seeing his Character aspersed, his Reputation taken away by those, who suffer Party-Prejudice, or Faction, to rise superior to their Judgment ; and from thence level themselves with others, who neither are, nor can be Judges of a Matter so abstracted from Proofs, which determine Mankind in other Things, but is of so nice a Nature, as to be little understood by any one but Seamen.

Now

Now let me call upon every Man who is a Friend to Justice, and his Country ; and ask him what Consequences such unreasonable Expectations from Officers (as have been advanced) may produce ; they must either be obliged for the future to throw off all Thoughts of Conduct, to gain a Reputation of Bravery, a Reputation to refuse fighting an Enemy at no Odds, or under any disadvantageous Circumstances, at the Expence of the King's Ship, and the Loss of so many brave Fellows, who are ready with their last Drop of Blood to sacrifice their Lives for the Honour of their King, and the Good of their Country : Or by behaving as a discreet good Officer, meet with Ignominy and Disgrace, instead of Applause.

Yet 'tis to be wished that Reason may not be laid aside, that it may always accompany a Man of Courage, and not to glory in an Insensibility of Fear, because Madness has got the better of Reason. I am sure it must greatly surprize every thinking Man, that Conduct or Prudence should be a Proof of the want of Courage ; or in other Words, that a Man must arrive at a Pitch of Madness before he is fit to command. The Nation would soon feel the Effects of such a Commander in Chief, as it has too lately done in the *West-Indies* ; and it is highly reasonable to conclude, the same Infection has got hither by the Spirit of the Enquirist, who is for throwing into Confusion, the forming of Fleets or Armies, and fighting as the wild *Indians* without Rule or Method. 'Tis not the Manner of fighting only that is to be thrown into this Confusion, but all Enquiries into Commanders Conduct is to run in the same Strain. Did you fight, or did you not ?  
 “ If you did not, you are not to be justified, because your Ship perhaps was said to be only of  
 “ the same Rate of the Enemy. You are to tell us  
 “ of

“ of no Advantages they had above you, all Ex-  
 “ cuses are Jargon and Nonsense ; a Seaman of  
 “ Résolution always conquer, and if we ever  
 “ loose any Ships, ’tis because there are no brave  
 “ Seamen on board.” None, who have lost  
 their Senses, and have in lieu an irrational Cou-  
 rage, even to the Fury of a mad Beast.

These are the proper Enquiries, these the truly  
 heroick Spirits of Officers, who ought to compose  
 Court-Martials, and when they have got this  
 length, I hope they will then meet the Enquirer’s  
 loud Applause and Approbation.

Even in his Sphere as an Enquirer into this  
 Captain’s Conduct, he tells you, that “ Nobody  
 “ either dares, knows how, or will write upon  
 “ that Subject but himself.” The Nation is  
 obliged to him for his Labours, (as to the  
 honourable Representatives thereof he addresses  
 himself) it would have been therefore a little be-  
 coming in him, to have cooled upon this Matter  
 so far as to have had an intermitting Fit of Reason  
 and Modesty, to have candidly represented the  
 Nature of the Evidence as appears by the Mi-  
 nutes, and not to have falsly recited some, in-  
 verted the Sense of others, and thus gone on  
 throwing Dirt at every Body in his way.

The *French*, whatever Opportunity of boasting,  
 the *Mediterranean* Affair has given them, has no  
 room in the Case, I have now been contend-  
 ing for. Their Officers might have engaged if  
 they had thought proper, but whatever is the  
 Reason, they don’t seem to love fighting this  
 War. The *Dreadnought* and Prince *Frederick*  
 bore down upon the *Brest* Squadron, supposing  
 them to be a Convoy of Merchant Ships ; nor did  
 they find their Mistake, till they were well in  
 with the Fleet, they were then chased in Turn,  
 two or three of the Enemy’s best sailing Ships of  
 F equal

equal Force with ours, come upon their Quarters, and fired their Broadfides; but durst not come alongside; our Ships in Return fired what Guns they could bring to bear upon them, the Chace continued two Days; and three of their Ships could have come alongside of them when they pleased and engaged them, which could have been but a very short Time before the whole Fleet would have been up, who were about two Miles a-head. What can be said for this Piece of Conduct? But, this truly is nothing, the Gallantry of our *English* Commanders is the Jest of our Neighbours; our Enemy's I should rather believe, of which last Sort, we have too many in our own Country.

It is easy for an ill designing Man, a Man, whom Party-Fury, and private Prejudice has torn too peices, to propagate Falshoods touching the Conduct, and Character of a Sea Officer, even one who has been always an Honour to his Station, and now met with the highest Approbation of a Court-Martial, from his Behaviour and Conduct in this Affair; for the same Reason it is very difficult for him to stop this encreasing Clamour, or to remove the Impressions the Publick has for some Time before received against him. But it was hoped by all Lovers of Truth and Justice, that the anonymous Author might have been obliged to have led the honourable House of Commons into a further and more satisfactory Light of this Enquiry, and that the Gentlemen whose Reputation and Character is thus questioned, might have been at Liberty to confront this bold Challenger, as he has already stood the Judgment of a Court-Martial, would, 'tis highly to be presumed) have thought himself happy to have had his Conduct again enquired into by any impartial Judges.







